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PATENT APPLICATION

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Frank STEEGMANS, et al.

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For: METHOD FOR ACCESSING A SERVICE PLATFORM VIA AN INTERNET BROWSER SESSION

SUBMISSION OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith is a certified copy of the priority document on which a claim to priority was made under 35 U.S.C. § 119. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of said priority document.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures: **CERTIFIED COPY OF EUROPEAN APPLICATION NO. 99402483.4**

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Bescheinigung Certificate Attestation

Die angehefteten Unterlagen stimmen mit der ursprünglich eingereichten Fassung der auf dem nächsten Blatt bezeichneten europäischen Patentanmeldung überein.

The attached documents are exact copies of the European patent application described on the following page, as originally filed.

Les documents fixés à cette attestation sont conformes à la version initialement déposée de la demande de brevet européen spécifiée à la page suivante.

Patentanmeldung Nr. Patent application No. Demande de brevet n°

99402483.4

Der Präsident des Europäischen Patentamts;
Im Auftrag

For the President of the European Patent Office

Le Président de l'Office européen des brevets
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Blatt 2 der Bescheinigung
Sheet 2 of the certificate
Page 2 de l'attestation

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Method for accessing a service platform such as TINA via an internet browser session

In Anspruch genommene Priorität(en) / Priority(ies) claimed / Priorité(s) revendiquée(s)

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Remarques:

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METHOD FOR ACCESSING A SERVICE PLATFORM SUCH AS TINA VIA AN INTERNET BROWSER SESSION

The present invention relates to a method for accessing a service platform such as TINA via an internet browser session as described in the preamble of claim1.

Such a method is already known in the art, e.g. from the paper *"HOW TO INTEGRATE THE TINA AND THE INTERNET"* from the authors Klaus-Peter Eckert et al, first published by COMDEX Enterprise, Frankfurt Germany in September 1998. Therein, is described that the being the de facto standard for the world wide exchange of all kinds of information has some drawbacks. One of the main drawbacks is that there is no consistent way to identify a user, provide the ability to subscribe, tailor, manage, and/or account his preferred services.

On the other hand there is a service platform, called the TINA service platform in the paper, that fills in this gap in the area of telecommunications and information technology wherein, in contrast to the Internet the service platform provides the means to identify bilaterally the service provider and the service customers and users.

This paper further extends the service platform for the deployment and usage of telecommunications and information technology services in a way, that the typical Internet user can try out services, called TINA-services and subscribe and tailor them on-line and with respect to security policies and personal preferences.

But still there is no integration of the service platform with the internet, which has the disadvantage that an internet session can not rely on an established infrastructure for service management, (i.e. accounting, billing, deployment, etc.) nor on an advanced business model and that the service session provided by the service platform such as the TINA-service platform can not be used to accommodate simple services as the internet with all the outstanding features that it provides.

An object of the present invention is to provide a method of the above known type but wherein the integration of service platforms such as the TINA service platform and the internet are improved.

According to the invention, this object is achieved due to the fact that a web-browsing session is associated with a service platform service session by having JAVA components exchange information.

To perform this, a special servlet is installed at the web-server of the content provider. Depending on the configuration of this particular server, this servlet will be triggered by a certain or all Uniform Resource Locators, further referred to as URL. The provider will start a service session and associate it with certain URLs via a database or equivalent thereof. The provider part of the service session and the servlet will communicate to implement the necessary charging and protection mechanisms.

The servlet will detect whether the browser session that requests the URL is already associated to a certain user in a particular service session. If so, it will perform particular actions related to the URL, which may be stored in a database, i.e. charge the party a particular amount and eventually communicate this back to the service session.

If not, it will return a web-page containing an applet that will walk the browsing user through the logon process for the particular service session associated with the URL. This may include logon to a retailer and starting of an access session. If these exist, the applet may reuse them. Finally the 'consumer's 'user-application', will be launched. This one will contact the service session and inform the 'provider' via the service session about association of a certain browser session with a particular party and eventually pass accounting procedures for this party. Then the initial URL will be re-requested by the applet. Now the servlet will find the association of the web browser session and the service session.

The above and other objects and features of the invention will become more apparent and the invention itself will be best understood by referring to the

following description of an embodiment taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 represents a detailed scenario of the integration of a TINA service session and the internet web browsing session.

In the following paragraphs, referring to the drawing presented in FIG. 1, the implementation of the method according to the present invention will be described. The first part of this description is made on a high level and a second part of the description is made on a more detailed level using instructions. Subsequently there is a second embodiment described in a same way as the first one, but differing in that only differences compared to the first one are described.

In the high level description the following steps of the method according to the present invention are distinguished:

1. The managed Content Retrieval Servlet further referred to as MCR Servlet is launched together with the World Wide Web server, world wide Web further referred to as WWW. The MCR Servlet keeps a list of registered WWW Browsers Session and the related ssUAPMCRInterface, PartyId, accounting policies

2. The 'Content Provider' goes through the login procedure and starts a 'Managed Content Retrieval' service session at his retailer. As a result the ssUAPp is launched. This applet has a Graphical User interface for managing the service session. It will register itself and the announced service session with the MCR servlet. It also registers its and eventually the SSM service specific interface with the servlet.

3. The user browses content on the WWW. Each time a link is requested on the MCR Provider's WWW server, the MCR servlet is invoked. When a registered WWW Browser Session fetches information, the MCR Servlet will retrieve the information related to the requested URL, do the required accounting, contact the ssUAP if necessary and return the information if granted. If the browser session is not registered, it will return a web-page containing the MCR applet that will try to find whether the user is already in an access session, if

not it will establish one. After that the applet will join the referenced MCR service session in the context of the access session.

4. After the applet has registered the browser session via joined service session at the user side, that possibly may be launched in one go as indicated in the scenario above, it will again request the initial URL.

5. The servlet will now find that the web-session is registered and react as indicated in step 3.

From than on, each hit to the server will be processed in a similar way.

The subsequent detailed scenario describes the steps of the method as presented in FIG.1. The used numbers correspond to numbered steps in FIG.1.

1. requestNamedAccess()

2. setupAccessSession()

2r., 1r. Returns: SecretId, UAinterfaceRefs, AccessSessionId

3. setUserContext(PAInterfaceRefs)
listSubscribedServices()

3r. Returns: SubscribedServicesList

4. (instantiates provider ssUAPp) startServiceInit(PAInterfaceRefs)

5., 6. startService()

7. createSSession()

8. (instantiates MCR SSM) initialise()

9. registerAnnouncement()

9r. Returns: announcementId

8r., 7r., 6r., 5r. Returns: RetUsageInterfaceRefs of SSM + partyId

10. setPartyContext(partyId, ssUAPpInterfaceRefs)
listAnnouncement() /* Service specific */

10r. Returns: announcementId

11. RegisterUAP(ssUAPInterfaceRefs, announcementId, MCRAppletURL)

12. HTTP fetch <URL>

13. Unregistered WWW Browser Session, thus HTTP send HTML Page:

with MCR applet, sessionId, announcementId and cookie

14. Try to bind to existing PA else launch PA and ssUAP to start Access session and join the MCR service session.

15. requestNamedAccess()

16. setupAccessSession()

16., 15r. Returns: SecretId, UAinterfaceRefs, AccessSessionId, partyId

17. setUserContext(partyId, PAInterfaceRefs)

listSubscribedServices()

listSessionAnnouncements(announcementId)

18. listSessionAnnouncements(announcementId)

18r. Returns: AnnouncementList

17r. Returns: SubscribedServicesList + AnnouncementList

19. (instantiates customer ssUAPp) joinSessionInit(announcementId)

20., 21, 22.. joinSessionWithAnnouncement(announcementId)

22r., 21r., 20r. Returns: RetUsageInterfaceRefs of SSM + partyId

23. setPartyContext(partyId, ssUAPcInterfaceRefs, ssProperties={webSessionId, accountingProfile})

24. joinSessionInfo(partyId, ssProperties) /* only invoked on owner's ssUAP */

25. registerParty(partyId, webSessionId, accountingProfile, ssUAPInterfaceRef)

26. joinServiceSessionSuccess ... /* signal applet */

27. HTTP fetch <URL> (repeat fetch)

28. retrieveURLInfo: ChargingInfo + Content

29. chargePartyReq(partyId, charge, contentType, ...)

29r. Returns: Ok

30. HTTP return requested URL content, which is displayed in the browser.

Subsequently the second embodiment is described. Using a similar technique as described above, a service sessions announcement 'service' can be integrated with the WWW.

The retailer uses a web server that is equipped with an Announcement Servlet to announce running service sessions to browsing users on the WWW. Be aware of the fact that access policies can be applied by integrating a service as described before. i.e. for only announcing sessions to a limited group of users.

The announcement manager will publish running service sessions through the use of Hyper Text Markup Language-pages. This may also be performed by other techniques, i.e. active server pages, Extended Markup Language, etc. It will also keep this information consistent with the effective sessions.

The pages that are retrieved by the user contain information related to the service session as well as links to the servlet. These links give the user a point-and-click way of accessing the service session. This could be simply joining the session, but also changing configurations, etc. The following scenario explains in more detail how this mechanism works for having a user join an arbitrary service session. It starts from step 9 in the previous described detailed scenario.

10. The AM updates its content database with the new service session information and handles (links).

11. The user browse the web pages with this service session information.

12. The user selects a link to join the service session. This invokes a request on the servlet with the selected parameters.

13. The Servlet returns the Join Applet.

14. The Join applet walks the user through the same process as in the previous example which is described in steps step 14 to 22.

It is to be remarked that the core of this method can be extended in numerous ways, i.e. use announcement service sessions, hence web server providers can be paid for their advertisement, etc.

While the principles of the invention have been described above in connection with specific apparatus, it is to be clearly understood that this

description is made only by way of example and not as a limitation on the scope of the invention, as defined in the appended claims.

CLAIMS

1. Method for accessing a service platform such as TINA via an Internet browser session, **CHARACTERISED IN THAT** said method including the steps of:

a. Installing a servlet at a web-server of a content provider having access to said service platform;

b. When a user tries to use a service of said service platform, detecting by said servlet whether or not said browser session is already associated to a related service session;

c. If said browser session is already associated to said related service session, performing predetermined actions related to said service session, such as charging;

d. if said browser session is not associated to said related service session, returning a web-page containing an applet to guide an associated browser user through a logon process for said related service session; and

e. said user accessing said service session via said browser session.

ABSTRACT

METHOD FOR ACCESSING A SERVICE PLATFORM SUCH AS TINA VIA AN INTERNET BROWSER SESSION

The method for accessing a service platform such as TINA via an internet browser session is made up of a number of steps. The first step is installing a servlet at a web-server of a content provider having access to this service platform. When a user then tries to use a service of this service platform, the servlet detects whether or not said browser session is already associated to a related service session. If the browser session is already associated to this related service session, it performs predetermined actions related to the service session, such as charging. If the browser session is not associated to the related service session, it returns a web-page containing an applet to guide an associated browser user through a logon process for the related service session. In the end the user may access the service session via the browser session.

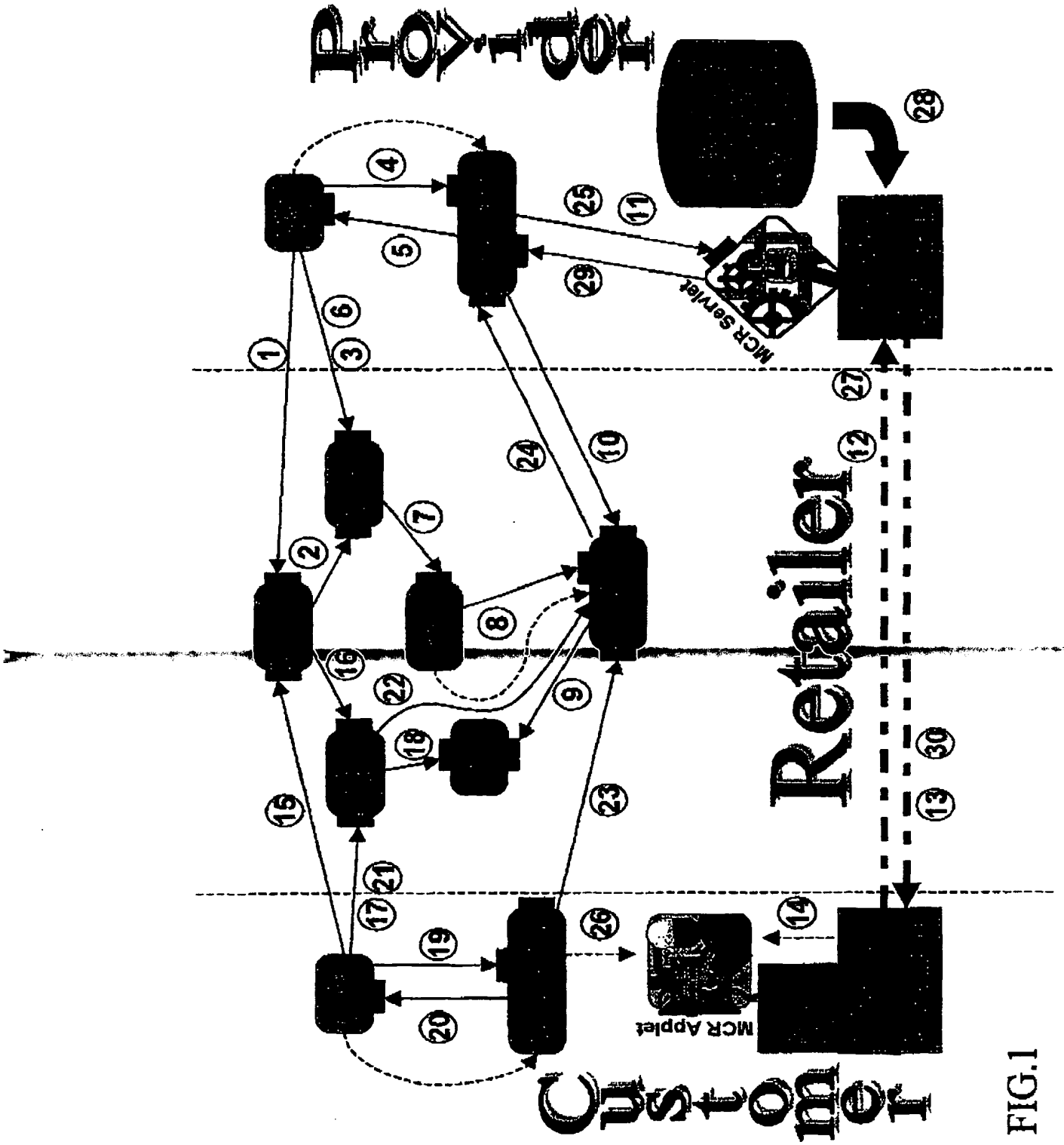
Retailer
MCR Servlet
MCR Applet
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FIG.1